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PRESIDENT AND CEO LARRY DUBINSKI NAMED CHAIR-ELECT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY CENTERS (ASTC)

Dubinski rises to the helm of an association that oversees some 700 member organizations in nearly 50 countries further cementing his profile as one of the most highly respected museum executives the world over

PHILADELPHIA November 2, 2017—The Franklin Institute’s President and CEO Larry Dubinski has been named Chair-Elect of the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) Board of Directors. Dubinski will serve a two-year term as ASTC Board Chair effective October 2019. Dubinski will lead the international association that serves more than 700 member organizations in nearly 50 countries, comprising not only of science centers and museums but also nature centers, aquariums, planetariums, zoos, botanical gardens, natural history and children’s museums. The organization provides a collective voice, professional support, and programmatic opportunities for its members, and leverages strategic alliances and global partnerships to increase awareness of the valuable contributions its member organizations make to their communities and informal STEM learning. The announcement was made during the ASTC Annual Conference, October 21-24.

“It’s an honor to be named Chair-Elect of the ASTC Board of Directors,” said Dubinski. “With the support of its incredibly talented directors, members, and leadership team, I have no doubt that 2019 will find us building upon ASTC’s legacy as an invaluable resource and dedicated advocate for the advancement of informal science education. I am eager to bring my experiences leading The Franklin Institute to bear on such a tremendous organization and look forward to contributing to the future success of both the association itself, with newly appointed ASTC President and CEO Cristin Dorgelo, and the hundreds of science-technology centers and museums it serves the world over.”

“I am delighted that Larry is now moving into the role of Chair-Elect and look forward to working closely with him over the next two years,” said Guy Labine, ASTC Chair and Chief Executive Officer of Science North, the science center in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. “Larry combines a great commitment to the broader field with substantial acumen as the leader of an outstanding institution. We can all learn from his experience and knowledge, and I am grateful he is willing to take on this additional responsibility.”

Dubinski serves as the President and CEO of The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, which welcomes more than 850,000 visitors each year, earning the distinction of most visited museum in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition to overseeing one of the oldest and premier centers of science education and development in the country, Dubinski works diligently to further the Institute’s

reputation as a prominent educational and cultural resource and secure its positioning as a top-five tourist destination in the City of Philadelphia and anchor of the local economy.

Under Dubinski's leadership, The Franklin Institute has significantly raised its international profile. A string of curatorial and exhibit exchanges and the development of strategic partnerships have led to the procurement of artifact loans and subsequent world-class traveling exhibitions—including its current show *Terracotta Warriors of the First Emperor*. The Institute has experienced a recent upsurge in millennial interest as a result of Dubinski's push for engaging experiences like Escape Rooms, virtual and augmented reality, Science After Hours, and high-profile speaker events that deliver Jane Goodall, Bill Nye and other notable guests to the Institute's core and expanded audience. Beginning this year, Dubinski will lead the organization through an ambitious four-pronged strategic plan which aims to deliver best-in-class results across the board.

Dubinski contributes his leadership skills and strategic museum acumen to some of the most dedicated and purposeful boards in the region and beyond. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, the Philadelphia Convention & Visitors Bureau (PHLCVB), the Parkway Council Foundation, and the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance (GPCA). Further afield, Dubinski sits on the board of the renowned Deutsches Museum in Munich, Germany. He spent eight years as chair of the ASTC Development Committee and was on the Search Committee for the new ASTC President and CEO. Dubinski will continue to serve on the ASTC Executive Committee as Chair-Elect.

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania's most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit www.fi.edu and follow The Franklin Institute on Twitter @TheFranklin and Instagram @FranklinInstitute, hashtag #franklininstitute.